



Senate Meeting  
**Skype for Business**

February 26, 2021  
2 p.m.

## MINUTES

**Present:** J. McMullin (Chair), K. Allan, P. Barry Mercer, A. Benzaquén, G. Boulet, P. Cantelo, A. Card, G. Chan, D. Cox, P. Crouse, K. Darvesh, C. Dawson, G. Durepos, T. Findlay, D. Fisher, J. Fraser Arsenault, C. Hardy, T. Harriott, T. Harrison, E. Henderson, E. Hicks, N. Kayhani, K. Kienapple, L. MacCallum, M. Nadeem, D. Piccitto, K. Rana, M. Ralston, K. Ritchie, J. Roberts, C. Schneider, C. Slumkoski, J. Sutherland, A. Thurlow

**Regrets:** M. Bluechardt

**Observers:** N. Buchanan, S. Davis, K. Gallant, K. Healy, J. Lamb, K. Smyth

*The meeting was called to order at 2:06 p.m. Observers were identified and welcomed; All observers were reminded that they may be granted speaking privileges but are not eligible to vote on motions.*

### 1. Indigenous Land Recognition

J. McMullin provided an acknowledgement that the Mount is built on traditional unceded Mi'kmaq territory and paid respect to the Indigenous peoples of the land on which Senate meets.

### 2. Approval of Agenda

**Moved** by D. Fisher, seconded by K. Kienapple, to approve the agenda as presented.  
CARRIED

### 3. Approval of Minutes

3.1. November 27, 2020

**Moved** by G. Boulet, seconded by C. Dawson, that the minutes of the meeting held November 27, 2020, be approved as amended. CARRIED (2 abstentions)

3.2. January 29, 2021

**Moved** by G. Boulet, seconded by C. Hardy, that the minutes of the meeting held January 29, 2021, be approved as presented. CARRIED

3.3. February 5, 2021

**Moved** by G. Boulet, seconded by A. Thurlow, that the minutes of the meeting held February 5, 2021, be approved as presented. CARRIED

**4. Business Arising from the Minutes**

4.1. Change to Bylaw 1.1

K. Allan brought forward the change to Senate Bylaw 1.1, noting that this change would provide more flexibility in student representation on Senate.

**Moved** by K. Allan, seconded by K. Rana, that Senate approve the change to Bylaw 1.1. CARRIED (one opposed)

4.2. Change to Bylaw 14

T. Harriott brought forward the change to Bylaw 14, noting that this change clarifies that elected members may not designate a replacement on a Senate committee and ensures that ex officio members appoint designates only when the committee has determined that the change will not impede its functioning.

**Moved** by T. Harriott, seconded by E. Hicks, that Senate approve the change to Bylaw 14. CARRIED

4.3. February 5 Special Meeting

J. McMullin shared that Senate Executive spent a considerable amount of time reviewing the discussion at the February 5 special Senate meeting, focusing on four areas: whether or not Senate is a representative body; the use of roll call votes; minutes and access to recordings; and the June minutes and addition of voters' names with their votes. She noted that at the February 5 meeting some Senators expressed opinions that Senate is a representative body but that research to date has revealed that this designation would have implications for Senators and Senate sub-committees in addition to the possible inclusion of roll call voting. She cited questions regarding how Senators consult with and report to their constituencies and how faculty Senators are elected.

She noted that Robert's Rules states that meeting minutes are meant to be a summary of decisions and that the recording is used only in minute preparation; therefore, to make major changes to the way minutes are recorded and/or to provide access to audio recordings would require a Bylaw change, taking into consideration both Robert's Rules and FOIPOP regulations.

J. McMullin continued by reporting on the discussion about the June minutes, noting that they will be brought forward for approval at our next Senate meeting. Considering that the vote was not conducted correctly, the

confusion surrounding the vote, and our current Bylaws, Senators' names and how they voted will only be added to the minutes if requested individually.

P. Crouse and T. Harriott will continue to research these items.

D. Piccitto asked if this ends the discussion on the June meeting minutes and the use of roll call votes. J. McMullin noted that additional discussion can happen at our next meeting once the motion for approval of the June minutes is on the floor. She also reminded Senators that these items will be up for consideration and debate as part of our upcoming Governance review.

## **5. Administration Updates**

5.1. President  
None

5.2. Vice-President Academic and Provost  
J. McMullin reported on EDIA initiatives adding that our EDIA Advisor will begin work on March 15; she also reported on the Black Scholar cluster hiring program and the Pandemic Equity Advisory Committee activities. She added that the preliminary interviews for the AVPR and the Dean of Professional Studies and Graduate Studies will begin next week. She thanked the search committees as well as HR Director K. Healy for all their hard work during this process.

She reported that the TLCOL review and unit response was reviewed by CAPP this morning and will be brought forward to SCOITS, SCOTL and Senate in March. The report will also be posted on a shared drive for access to members who participated in the review. She added that a search committee is now being created for the next TLCOL leader.

J. McMullin indicated that fall planning is underway with consultation being held with the Department of Health, the Department of Labour and Advanced Education (LAE), and colleagues across the sector. The goal would be for increased face-to-face delivery in the fall, while keeping in mind public health guidelines, student access, faculty preference and classroom capacity. She further noted that over the next two weeks Deans and the Registrar will work with Faculty to build a timetable that best reflects these considerations; therefore, moving student registration to a later date to allow for anticipated changes with the timetable.

She then spoke to a motion brought forward to the Senate Secretary by the MSVUSU regarding the scheduling of exams for students in other time zones. As CAPP is responsible for the exam policy, CAPP reviewed the request and

noted that those who were negatively affected by their time zone could petition for a deferral. CAPP also determined that it would be logistically impossible to manage this motion and that the motion has been brought forward due to circumstances associated with the current pandemic.

She then spoke to her resignation and the announcement of the interim Vice-President Academic and Provost, Dr. Brook Taylor. She reviewed the thorough consultation that led to the decision and thanked M. Bluechardt for all her hard work. She asked for support of M. Nadeem, M. Bluechardt and B. Taylor as he takes on this new role.

Throughout the meeting many Senators expressed accolades towards J. McMullin. They also expressed sorrow and shock in her resignation.

### 5.3. Vice-President Administration

M. Nadeem expressed his deep appreciation of J. McMullin as both a colleague and peer. He spoke to a phased return to campus under the guidance of public health and in consultation with LAE and sister institutions. He added that the budget process is ongoing and two townhall sessions (one for students, one for faculty and staff) will be held on March 5.

## 6. Question Period

G. Boulet questioned the establishment of a search committee for the Leader of TLCOL. To add context, she gave a brief history of the original request for a new Director of TLCOL and how that led to the recent TLCOL review. She expressed concerns regarding the possible title change and being precipitous in filling this position. Later in the meeting, she requested a delay in forming the search committee to allow time for Senators to fully consider the report. J. McMullin gave reasoning of why a search committee was being assembled now but added that she would delay establishing this search committee until after Senate could examine the TLCOL review.

T. Findlay questioned how skill and expertise in EDIA factored into the decision of appointing this interim VPA&P. J. McMullin responded that she was part of the consultation for the VPA&P selection and will be part of the transition. As this is the case, she is confident that the EDIA mission will move forward. Other Senators also expressed concerns and questions around the two-year term, the transition process, the rush to appoint, and the lack of consultation. J. McMullin responded that it is important that the new President have opportunity to select their Provost; it's about stability. She added that she will begin working with B. Taylor next week on existing initiatives as well as the Mount's changes to operations and thinking. She added that there is a sense of urgency in trying to move forward with the initiatives and there is no written instruction on how to proceed in these types of situations.

Questions were raised about the MSVUSU proposed motion regarding exams for students in other time zones. The current exam policy as well as the policy for proctored exams at a distance were reviewed. Some Senators expressed concern regarding equity for those in alternate time zones for all timed graded work. Other Senators expressed sympathy for the students but noted concerns about creating multiple versions of tests for those in several different time zones. J. McMullin and P. Cantelo to review this item with hopes to providing an equitable solution. (G. Boulet, J. McMullin, T. Findlay, J. Roberts, G. Durepos, D. Piccitto, K. Allan, P. Cantelo, K. Darvesh, K. Ritchie, N. Kayhani)

## 7. Committee Reports (Standing and Ad Hoc)

### 7.1. Senate Executive

#### 7.1.1. Spring Convocation

P. Cantelo brought forward the change to spring convocation, noting that due to COVID-19, the event will once again be held virtually. He informed Senators that there will be three Faculty based student graduate celebrations, along with a video recognizing the installation of the new Chancellor as well as our Honorary Doctorates.

**Moved** by P. Cantelo, seconded by A. Card, that due to the COVID-19 pandemic, face-to-face Spring 2021 convocation ceremonies be cancelled; that for students eligible to graduate in Spring 2021, the Chancellor, or in her absence the Vice-Chancellor, shall confer all degrees in absentia following the approval of the graduation list by the Senate Executive; and that recognition of graduates, student and faculty award winners, honorary doctorates as well as the installation of the new Chancellor will occur. CARRIED

### 7.2. Academic Policy and Planning

#### 7.2.1. Revisions to Visiting Professor Policy

P. Cantelo introduced the revised Visiting Professorship policy.

**Moved** by P. Cantelo, seconded by E. Hicks, that Senate approve the revised policy for granting Visiting Professorship, effective immediately. CARRIED

### 7.3. Undergraduate Curriculum

#### 7.3.1. English

##### 7.3.1.1. New Course Proposal

###### 7.3.1.1.1. ENGL 3310: Indigenous Literatures

**Moved** by A. Card, seconded by G. Boulet, that Senate approve the new course ENGL 3310: Indigenous Literatures.

CARRIED

#### 7.4. Information Technology and Services

G. Boulet provided highlights from the last SCOITS meeting, noting the creation of four new hybrid instruction classrooms; the continuation of Tech Navigators and term helpdesk positions until the end of the semester; the availability of Chromebooks for loan to students; a new IT service request system under consideration; the pilot of an office hours booking feature in Office 365; the upgrade of Moodle to version 3.9 between the winter and summer term; an upgrade to the video features in Collaborate; and the creation of a self-serve webpage for various technical tools available for faculty use. She also reported that discussions were held surrounding faculty raised concerns with the current infrastructure, response delays, insufficient consultation and research resources—all issues that will hopefully be addressed by an IT Governance review. It was noted by several SCOITS members that this was a very productive meeting. K. Smyth communicated a decision to ask faculty about their needs for web-based tools as well as their on-campus software needs and that this request would go out jointly from TLCOL and IT&S. SCOITS was thanked for their work, and it was noted that this feedback will be considered during the preparation of the upcoming budget. (G. Boulet, K. Darvesh, K. Smyth, M. Nadeem, D. Piccitto)

#### 7.5. Nominations

7.5.1. Election of Senator to Search Committee for Leader TLCOL  
**Moved** by C. Dawson, seconded by J. Fraser Arsenault, that this item be withdrawn from the agenda. CARRIED  
The election of this representative will be deferred until after Senators have had time to review the TLCOL report.

#### 7.6. Student Experience

7.6.1. Student Guidelines for Conduct in Virtual Environment  
P. Barry Mercer brought forward the new Student Guidelines for Conduct in Virtual Environment for information and discussion. J. McMullin thanked P. Barry Mercer for this very important work. P. Barry Mercer confirmed that faculty will be notified once students are informed of these new guidelines. (P. Barry Mercer, G. Durepos)

#### 7.7. Teaching and Learning

7.7.1. Revisions to Teaching Excellence Awards Guidelines  
K. Darvesh brought forward the revisions to the Teaching Excellence Award Guidelines.  
**Moved** by K. Darvesh, seconded by D. Fisher, that Senate approve the Revisions to the Teaching Excellence Awards Guidelines. CARRIED

## **8. Other Reports**

### **8.1. Students' Union**

J. Sutherland reported on the December by-election and the health and dental referendum which allowed for a one-time opt-in option until September 2021. She also reported on the Mount Mentorship Committee, the General Manager hiring process, the Governance and Operations review and the recent SU AGM. She noted that the Crow and Go has been closed due to a loss of profits but will be reopened as a Mount Community soup kitchen; Vinnie's has also been closed due to loss of profits but will be rebranded and renovated to provide a more welcoming and safe space for students. She also noted that all Executive positions have been filled and they will continue to accept applications for the three remaining Council positions. Several Senators congratulated the Students' Union on a job well done.

### **8.2. FA President's Report on Board of Governors' Meeting**

D. Piccitto reported on the first Board meeting of 2021, which began with two informative educational presentations on the digital library archives and cybersecurity. She noted that during the meeting J. McMullin highlighted the recently completed program reviews and provided explanation on how these pertain to the Board. She also mentioned the approval of B. Taylor as the interim VPA&P, as well as the two productive meetings she had with the Vice-Chair regarding the response she received to her November report. She congratulated G. Boulet on winning the Canadian Association of University Teachers (CAUT) Sarah Shorten Award. In closing, she mentioned the reflection she gave regarding EDIA initiatives and the leadership of J. McMullin.

## **9. New Business**

### **9.1. Change to Bylaw 1.1**

D. Piccitto brought forward the notice of motion to amend Bylaw 1.1.

### **9.2. National Survey of Student Engagement Report**

P. Barry Mercer presented the 2020 National Survey of Student Engagement (NSSE) MSVU results. She explained that NSSE is an annual survey distributed to first-year and senior-level bachelor's degree-seeking students used to examine how students spend their time and what they gain from attending university. Results from the survey can be used to identify aspects of the undergraduate experience, both inside and outside the classroom, that can be improved through changes in policies and practices. Senators engaged in a discussion of the data and its use. They also noted that the results provided a great deal of which to be proud. (E. Hicks, D. Piccitto, L. MacCallum, K. Allan)

## **10. Items for Communication**

### **Senate approved:**

- Minutes of three meetings: November 27, 2020, January 29, 2021, and February 5, 2021
- Changes to Bylaw 1.1 and Bylaw 14
- Procedures for Spring 2021 convocation
- Revisions to the Visiting Professor Policy
- A new course in English
- Revisions to Teaching Excellence Awards Guidelines

### **Senate received for information:**

- Student guidelines for conduct in a virtual environment
- Notice of motion re change to Senate Bylaw 1.1
- Report on National Survey of Student Engagement

## **11. Adjournment**

**Moved** by G. Boulet, seconded by L. MacCallum, that Senate be adjourned at 4:41 p.m. CARRIED